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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 EUR-08 PM-03 SP-02 L-01
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-04 TRSE-00
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R 060115Z JUN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9324
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
CINCPAC
USUN NEW YORK 630

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0630

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PORG EPAP VM (WFP)
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL REVIEW OF WFP PROJECTS IN VIET NAM

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 0597 NOTAL, (B) VIENTIANE 0599 NOTAL
(C) STATE 139579, (D) ROME 10268

INTRODUCTION: A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC WFP SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN VIETNAM. THE SOURCE WAS AN EXPERT SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH EVALUATING PROGRESS AT S THE PROJECT SITES. WE REQUEST THAT ALL ADDRESSEES STRICTLY PROTECT THIS SOURCE TO INCLUDE AVOIDING REFERENCE TO VIENTIANE AS THE ORIGIN POINT OF THIS INFORMATION (DOI: MARCH 1978). THIS REPORT IS A COMPANION PIECE TOREF A. END OF INTRODUCTION.
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1. AS NOTED REF A, THE EXPERT RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL WFP AID TOTALING $35 MILLION FOR THREE PROJECTS: WFP PROJECTS NUMBERS 2450, 2449 AND 2278). THIS ADDITIONAL AID, ALONG WITH THE CONTINUANCE OF EXISTING PROJECTS, WOULD BE CONDITIONED ON VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCS THAT WFP SUPPLIED COMMODITIES OR EQUIVALENT SUBSTITUTES

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(TO BE DETERMINED BY PRIOR WFP SPECIFICATION) (PARA 4 REF B) WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO PROJECT BENEFICIARIES. THE EXPERT ALSO CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL TIME WFP STAFF IN HANOI. THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL.

2. PROJECT 2278: "REHAJILITATION AND EXPANSION OF PINE STANDS AND CREATION OF PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT IN DALAT REGION." THE SRV GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT TARGETS FOR 1977 WERE ATTAINED AND THAT PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING 1978 TARGETS ARE GOOD. REFORESTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TWO TREE NURSERIES IN THE AREA WAS PROCEDING SATIS-FACTORILY. FIRE AND UNCONTROLLED CATTLE GRAZING WERE SEEN AS THREATS TO PROGRESS THUS FAR ACHIEVED. IN ADDITION TO AREAS ALREADY UNDER DEVELOPMENT, ANOTHER 30,000 HECTARES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA AND ANOTHER 100,000 TO 150,000 HECTARES IN THE GENERAL AREA WERE DEEMED SUITABLE FOR PINE PRODUCTION. EXPANSION OF THIS PROJECT WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: 1) TO HELP COVER THE ESTIMATED SRV TRADE DEFICIT IN FOREST PRODUCTS OF OVER $8 MILLION; 2) TO ARREST SOIL EROSION AND ENHANCE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT; AND 3) TO ENHANCE EMPLOY-MENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES IN AN AREA WHERE A "DISAFFECTED POPULATION (INCLUDING ONE THIRD MINORITY GROUPS) REMAINS." THE EXPERT CONDITIONED FURTHER WFP ASSISTANCE ON GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION
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OF NEWLY PLANED TREES BY CATTLE AND FOREST AREAS BY FIRE.

3. PROJECT 2279: "REHABILITATION OF RUBBER PLANTATIONS THROUGH RESETTLEMENT IN BINH LONG AND PHUOC LONG PROVINCES (NOW UNITED IN THE SINGLE SONG BE PROVINCE)." GOVERNMENT SUPPLIED FIGURES INDICATED THAT THE PROJECT HAD MORE THAN MET ITS DEVELOPMENT TARGET. TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND HECTARES OF PLANTATION HAD BEEN RECONSTITUTED; 5,200 HECTARES OF NEW PLANATATION AREA HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED; 900KILOMETERS OF ROADS AND PATHS HAD BEEN RECONSTRUCTED, AND THE RUBBER FACTORY AT QUANG LOI HAD BEEN RECONSTRUCTED WITH AN OUTPUT OF 3,000 TONS OF TREATED RUBBER IN 1976 AND 8,000 TONS IN 1977. THE YIELD OF DRY RUBBER PER HECTARE WAS LOW (ONE HALF TON), AND ACCORDING TO THE VISITING EXPERT, THE RUBBER TREE NURERIES AND BUDWOOD GARDENS SEEMED INADEQUATE. THERE HAD BEEN A GREATER USE OF MECHANIZATION THAN FORESEEN SO THAT SOME OF THE RESETTLED POPULATION HAD BEEN PUT TO WORK IN FOOD PRODUCTION. THE EXPERT RECOMMENDED THAT NO INCREASE IN THE POPULATION IN THE AREA COULD BE SUPPORTED.

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4. PROJECT 2280: "RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC AREA OF AN KHE." THE SITE HAD EXPERIENCED ONLY MINIMAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, THOUGH SETTLEMENT, LAND CLEARING, AND BASIC AGRICULTURAL PLANS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. IRRIGATION PLANS HAD BEEN SET. FOOD AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS (SUGAR CANE, TOBACCO, AND PEANUTS) WERE CULTIVATED AT THE SITE. THERE WAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR BROWN SUGAR PRODUCTION AND CANE SUGAR WAS CURRENTLY GROWN ON 6,000 HECTARES. THE EXPERT COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS AN IMBALANCE BETWEEN ANIMAL AND PLANT HUSBANDRY AND THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL SUBSISTENCE IN FOOD CROPS WAS ACHIEVED.

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5. PROJECT 2281: "RESETTLEMENT OF THE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC ZONE AT TAY NINH." THE EXPERT REPORTED THAT SETTLEMENT OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN EXCEEDED BUT THAT THE DISPLACEMENT OF POPULATION FROM HO CHI MINH CITY INTO THE SETTLEMENT AREA HAD RESULTED IN A LARGE POPULATION THAT HAD NO AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND OR PREPARATION. WATER SUPPLY IN THE AREA WAS INADEQUATE AND THE SOIL TOO ACIDIC. WITH ONLY ONE CROP DATING THE RAINY SEASON, YIELDS WERE LOW FOR FOOD CROPS (ONE TO TWO

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TONS PER HECTARE). WHERE THERE WAS IRRIGATION, SUGAR CANE WAS GROWN. THERE WAS ALSO SOME HANDICRAFT AND CRAFT WORK PRACTICED. INFRASTRUCTURE WAS MINIMAL.

6. PROJECT 2395: (IRRIGATION PROJECT). THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AT THE PROJECT CONFIDENTIAL

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SITE HAD REACHED THE PORT OF DA NANG IN EARLY 1978. ONE PORTION OF THE AREA HAD BEEN DE-MINED (WITH LOSS OF LIFE). THE DAM SITE HAD STRIP TRACING THE MAIN CANAL HAD BEEN CLEARED. OVER 60,000 SQUARE METERS OF WORKERS' ACCOMMODATIONS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED. INCLUDING WOODEN AND CONCRETE STRUCTURES. MEDICAL FACILITIES AND BAKERIES (TO USE WFP FLOUR) WERE COMPLEDTED. THE DIVERSION CANAL HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT WHEN THE WFP FOOD SUPPLIES ARRIVED IN LATE MARCH 1978, 35-40,000 PEOPLE WOULD BE AT WORK AT THE SITE.

7. PROJECT 2396: "BINH TRI THIEN FOREST PROJECT." NO WFP FOOD AID HAD ARRIVED AT THIS PROJECT SITE AS OF MARCH 1978. THE PROJECT NEVERTHELESS SEEMED TO BE DOING WELL: OVER 2,700 KILOGRAMS OF SEEDS (UNSPECIFIED) HAD BEEN HARVESTED, OVER 200 WELLS AND RESERVOIRS HAD BEEN EXCAVATED, AND 270 HECTARES OF NURSERIES HAD BEEN CREATED, ALL SINCE 1976. AT ONE SITE 400 HECTARES OF FILAO AND 300 ACRES OF EUCALYPTUS HAD BEEN PLANTED IN ANTICIPATION OF WFP AID.

8. PROJECT 2449: "TO LICH RIVER PROJECT." THE PROJECT WAS EXPECTED TO ACCOUNT FOR SIGNIFICANT FOOD PRODUCTION ON ITS 4,400 HECTARES. IT ALSO WOULD ASSIST IN MALARIA CONTROL. THE PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE VEGETABLES FOR HANOI (AT PRESENT THE COOPERATIVES AT THIS SITE PROVIDED 40 PERCENT OF THE VEGETABLES CONSUMED BY HANOI RESIDENTS(. THE PROJECT WOULD PERMIT FLOOD CONTROL AND IRRIGATION AND A RESULTANT INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES VALUED AT UP TO 10 MILLION (OLD NORTHERN) DONG PER YEAR. THE EXPERT URGED THAT WFP SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT BE CONTINUED OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. CONFIDENTIAL

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9. PROJECT 2450: "PHU NINH IRRIGATION PROJECT." THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT WAS TO IRRIGATE 23,000

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HECTARES IN THE DA NANG AREA. PLANS CALLED FOR CREATION
OF A 330 MILLION CUBIC METER RESERVOIR WHICH WOULD PROVIDE
WATER FOR IRRIGATION AND FOR POWER STATION CAPABLE
OF GENERATING 1800 KILOWATTS OF ELECTRICITY. THE LAKE
WOULD ALSO BE USED FOR FISH CULTIVATION. IT WAS HOPED
THAT THE PROJECT WOULD PERMIT THE RAISING OF DOUBLE
AND TRIPLE CROPS. WITH IRRIGATION, PLANNERS HOPED TO
ACHIEVE TWO TO TWO AND ONE HALF TONS OF RICE YIELD PER
HECTARS. THE PROJECT WOULD ALSO SUPPLY WATER FOR HUMAN
CONSUMPTION AND FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION
IT WOULD AFFORD FLOOD PROTECTION. WORK ON THE PROJECT
HAD BEGUNIN MID-FALL 1977 AND PLANNERS EXPECTED TO
COMPLETE 20 PERCENT OF THE PROJECT BY THE END OF 1978,
WITH THE REMAINDER BEING COMPLETED BY 1980. WFP PLANNED
TO COVER THE REMAINING 80 PERCENT OF THE MAN/DAYS REQUIRED
(ALONG THE LINES OF ITS FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM).
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